

**UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
WASHINGTON**

February 8, 2007

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD (ISAB)**

SUBJECT: Proliferation Implications of the Global Expansion of Civil Nuclear Power

The ISAB is requested to undertake a study of the proliferation risks associated with global expansion of civil nuclear power.

After a period of relatively slow growth in nuclear power in the latter part of the 20th century, there is now a growing interest worldwide in expanding nuclear power production, including in countries that do not currently generate nuclear power. Ever-increasing energy demands, security of energy supplies, and environmental considerations are driving the debate on the need for a greater investment in nuclear energy. A large increase in nuclear power production would mean uranium enrichment for reactor fuel and spent fuel reprocessing would expand, perhaps with a corresponding increased risk of the spread of critical fuel cycle technologies to new countries. The consequences for nuclear weapons proliferation could be profound.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its associated safeguard programs are intended to stop the diversion of materials and technology from legitimate peaceful uses to prohibited weapons programs. Because of the real risk that civilian nuclear programs could provide a path to a weapons capability, the U.S. has proposed to establish a mechanism at the IAEA to assure reliable access to nuclear fuel for states that forego enrichment and reprocessing, and launched the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) to promote nuclear energy technologies for recycling spent fuel without separating plutonium.

This ISAB study should include:

- An overview of the anticipated evolution of the nuclear power industry worldwide;

- An evaluation of the implications of the expansion of civil nuclear power for the nuclear nonproliferation regime;
- An evaluation of the initiative being developed to expand nuclear energy and strengthen nonproliferation, including ideas for making the initiative more effective; and
- Ideas for new international initiatives, or changes to existing programs, that could address the nuclear proliferation concerns associated with the anticipated expansion of nuclear power.

The ISAB may expand upon the tasks listed above, as it deems necessary. I request that you complete the study in 180 days. The Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security will sponsor the study. The Director for Strategic Planning and Outreach will support the study. The Executive Director will identify an Executive Secretary for the study.

The study will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Board Committee Act."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rb Joseph". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "Joseph".

Robert G. Joseph